

238 Tioga Street (House)  
(Cambria Steel Company House V)  
Westmont Neighborhood  
238 Tioga Street  
Johnstown  
Cambria County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5726

HABS  
PA,  
11-Joto,  
120-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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(Cambria Steel Company House V)

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Location: 238 Tioga Street, Westmont, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Large single-family home with busy decorative elements. Two-and-a-half stories, hip roof with prominent jerkinhead gable, wood frame, horizontal wood siding. Shed-roof front porch with spool turning. Second-floor balcony with shed roof. Fish-scale shingles and sunburst motif in gable. Stone basement.

History: This house was built by the Cambria Steel Co. in ca. 1909-11. Illustrated in the Iron Trade Review, the house had "seven rooms, toilet, bath, electric lights, gas, and reception hall." It rented for \$20 per month.

H. M. and Frances M. Tarr purchased the property from the Cambria Steel Co. on April 3, 1916, for \$4,400. H. M. Tarr was the President and General Manager of the Johnstown Grocery Co. The Tarrs used the house as rental property, and lived elsewhere in Westmont. The deed stipulated that only one single-family home costing not less than \$3,500 would be allowed on the property.

The house was sold to Herman and Rose J. Jacobs on May 9, 1919, for \$6,500, for a profit of \$1,000 in three years. The Jacobses owned it until 1930.

Sources:

Deed Records (260:653, 273:140, Cambria Iron Co. to H.M. Tarr; 309:2, 336:92, 423:254, 476:6, 1147:578), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

"Helping the Workingmen to Help Themselves: How the Cambria Steel Co. Aids in the Development and Maintenance of Institutions for the Benefit of Its Employees," Iron Trade Review (June 6, 1912), 1214, 1216.

Sanborn Map Co., Westmont, Pennsylvania (New York, 1913).

Johnstown City Directories, 1910, 1915, 1918, 1920.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhood of Westmont (HABS No. PA-5671) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Natalie Gillespie in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Gillespie's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.